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President:	Ms. Wallström	(Sweden)
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	Peru	Mr. Meza-Cuadra
	Poland	Mr. Lewicki
	Russian Federation	Mr. Polyanskiy
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Mr. Cohen

Agenda

Maintenance of international peace and security

Understanding and addressing climate-related security risks

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Maintenance of international peace and security

Understanding and addressing climate-related security risks

The President: I would like to warmly welcome the Heads of States and Government, ministers and other representatives here in the Security Council Chamber. Their presence here today underscores the importance of the subject matter we will discuss. I am also delighted to welcome once again the Deputy Secretary-General, Her Excellency Ms. Amina Mohammed.

In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Iraq, Maldives, Nauru, the Sudan and Trinidad and Tobago to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency Mr. Baron Divavesi Waqa, President of the Republic of Nauru. I also wish to welcome His Excellency Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister for Water Resources of the Republic of Iraq.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Hindou Ibrahim of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear briefings by the Deputy Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Janabi and Ms. Ibrahim.

I now give the floor to the Deputy Secretary-General, Her Excellency Ms. Amina Mohammed.

The Deputy Secretary-General: I would like to begin by commending the Security Council for focusing its attention on climate-related security risks.

I would like to address four key issues today: first, the nature of the challenges to our common security posed by climate risks; secondly, the impacts of climate change; thirdly, the actions being taken by the United Nations system to tackle them; and, lastly, what we need to ask of all of us to ensure that we continue to centrally integrate climate concerns in our security considerations.

It is clear that climate change is a real threat and is proceeding at a relentless pace. Earlier this year, the World Meteorological Organization confirmed that 2015, 2016 and 2017 were the warmest years on record. The level of carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere continues to rise. That build-up means that we are at increasing risk from heat waves, floods, droughts and wildfires, and we are now seeing all those things happening more frequently.

While the impact of climate change may be spread unevenly across various regions today, no country will be spared from its consequences in the long term. But we see disproportionate effects on socially vulnerable and marginalized groups. We must act together with a joint vision and a commitment to multilateral cooperation. That is our only chance at finding effective and sustainable solutions to this huge challenge.

The impacts of climate change go well beyond the strictly environmental. Climate change is inextricably linked to some of the most pressing security challenges of our time. It is no coincidence that the countries most vulnerable to climate change are often those most vulnerable to conflict and fragility. Fragile countries are in danger of becoming stuck in a cycle of conflict and climate disaster. Where resilience is eroded, communities may be displaced and exposed to exploitation. That said, the impact of climate change on security can take many different shapes, as the concept note for this debate continues to argue. They includes loss of livelihoods, food insecurity and risks to the natural resource base. Many of those manifestations become visible only over time.

The Lake Chad basin is grappling with many of those challenges. Having just returned from a joint visit to the region with the African Union and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Ms. Margot Wallström, I have seen the situation on the ground in all its complexity and urgency. The basin is experiencing a crisis brought on by a combination of political, socioeconomic, humanitarian and environmental factors. The drastic shrinking of Lake Chad by more than 90 per cent since the 1960s has led to environmental degradation, socioeconomic marginalization and insecurity affecting 40 million people. Exacerbated competition over scant resources and the vicious cycle of risk and vulnerability

have decreased the resilience of populations to cope with the humanitarian crisis.

I personally grew up in the Lake Chad basin, in Maiduguri. As a child, I would cross the lake on a hovercraft, thinking that I was going to the United Kingdom. Today, you can hardly take a canoe across it. The situation is real. There is no trade. There are only places for terrorists to hide.

Declining economic activity and agricultural loss have led to a lack of employment opportunities across the region. The resulting socioeconomic marginalization has exposed populations, in particular the young, to the risk of violent extremism and has provided a breeding ground for recruitment by groups such as Boko Haram. The Boko Haram insurgency in north-east Nigeria and the neighbouring countries of Cameroon, Chad and the Niger has left over 10 million people displaced and has resulted in the massive destruction of basic infrastructure, health-care and educational facilities, commercial properties, private homes and agricultural assets.

The multidimensional nature of the crisis underlines the complex relationship between climate change and conflict. Climate security-risk assessments and reporting from the local, national and regional levels should be considered as an early warning for conflict prevention. We must understand climate change as one issue in a web of factors that can lead to and exacerbate conflict. Within that web, climate change acts as a threat multiplier, applying additional stress on prevailing political, social and economic pressure points. As the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission said to me during our visit, "At the end of the day, what was the origin of this conflict?" For him, the disappearance of the Lake was a key factor. In Bol, the Lake has shrunk by more than 90 per cent in just a few decades. Action on climate change is urgent and is an integral part of building a culture of prevention and ensuring peace.

The United Nations system is tackling climate risks on several fronts. During the past 18 months, the Security Council has recognized the adverse effects of climate change on stability in several geographical areas — the Lake Chad basin, West Africa, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. The United Nations system takes seriously its responsibility to provide integrated analysis to the Security Council as it discusses those issues.

In that spirit, we are determined to fully mobilize the United Nations capacity to better understand and respond to climate-related security risks at all levels. We are increasing our climate-related security-risk assessments and management strategies. We are strengthening our capacity to understand the impact of climate change on security, to integrate our findings into assessment and planning processes and to better coordinate efforts between system entities.

For example, the Secretary General's forthcoming report on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel will report on recent developments involving the climate-security nexus in the region. The recalibrated United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel is similarly climate-oriented, focusing on building resilience and improving management of natural resources. By supporting climate-smart agriculture and resilient pastoralism at the regional level, the United Nations will continue to contribute to strengthening the resilience and capacities to adapt to the impact of climate change of rural women and their communities. The United Nations is also supporting ongoing successful efforts by the member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission to implement their stabilization strategy and programme, which also includes the development programme for recharging Lake Chad.

At the international level, the United Nations can help to connect efforts and ensure that climate-related frameworks are linked up and complement one another. We will support efforts to set the global resilience agenda to achieve sustainable development.

What is our ask? We need to support programmes that place women and youth at the heart of our efforts. We know that the impact of climate change is felt disproportionately by women. I am happy to have Ms. Hindou Ibrahim here to give us a much clearer view of what that means on a daily basis. Desertification means women must travel farther to fetch water and food, forcing them to miss out on education and economic opportunities in the long term. Youth without jobs will take the alternative route, into terrorism. The United Nations Development Programme, for instance, is already addressing many of those challenges. This progress needs urgent investments in scale.

The reality today is a very different one. The challenge and danger of climate change are today very clear and present dangers that virtually every

country has accepted and realized. They call for dramatic actions.

As the Secretary-General has said, climate change is moving much faster than we are. We count on the Security Council to do its part to help humankind keep pace.

The President: I thank the Deputy Secretary-General

I now give the floor to His Excellency, Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister for Water Resources of Iraq.

Mr. Janabi (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): It is an honour to be here today, at the kind invitation of Her Excellency the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, to give a briefing on climate-related security risks. This is a vital issue and today's debate is a testimony to its importance. I commend Sweden for the initiative of convening this open dialogue.

I would like at the outset to convey to the Council the sincere greetings of the Government and people of Mesopotamia — my country, Iraq, which aspires to stability, progress and prosperity, and hopes that these deliberations will contribute to the promotion of peace and security worldwide. The Council's deliberation on climate-related security risks is an important step forward in terms of international responses and a precautionary measure to mitigate risks and to avoid potential conflicts at the national, regional and international levels. The United Nations system focuses on the pillars of peace, development and human rights, and we believe that climate change has a significant negative impact on those three pillars.

The rising temperature of Earth's surface, if not by itself a direct and concrete threat — and I do believe that it is — undoubtedly magnifies the threats of other familiar risks, increases their complexity and intensity in many regions of the world, including ours, and impedes the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in our countries. That is particularly true of Goals 1, 2, 6, 13 and 15. That in turn will lead to further impoverishment, displacement, food and water insecurity, and violations of human rights, especially those of women, children and other vulnerable groups, amid conditions of instability.

Declining rainfall and the unsustainable use of water resources exacerbate the problem of water scarcity, causing the depletion of life-sustaining land resources, displacement and migration. There is no doubt that the United Nations maintains frightening statistics on the number of displaced persons and migrants for social and environmental reasons. Although the number of those who have drowned in the high seas is unknown, the causes of their deadly migration attempts are known to everybody inside and outside this Chamber. Those reasons include poverty, wars, instability and the lack of decent means of living resulting from the spread of desertification, global warming and the loss of biological diversity. Those are the challenges to the conclusion of three important conventions: the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, in addition to other international and regional conventions adopted since the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

The first human civilizations arose in the valleys of major rivers on various continents. In our part of the world, that includes the Mesopotamian rivers — the Tigris and Euphrates, home of the great Sumerian civilization — and the great Nile river in Egypt. We are concerned that the great river basins of the Middle East in particular are being subjected to the greatest threat and stress ever, resulting primarily from climate change and then from competition for the use and control of shared water resources in the absence of effective bilateral or multilateral conventions or regional frameworks for the equitable and reasonable use of shared water. Such stress may result from indifference towards the application of the principles of international law and its tools to ensure the rights of all riparian countries.

That exacerbates the political, economic and social problems and intensifies the negative impact of climate change, which, according to our observations, led to the decline of about 25 per cent of rainfall or snow cover in the upper river basins of the Tigris and the Euphrates. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change expected that the reduction in rainfall and snowfall would be between 10 and 60 per cent in the Tigris and Euphrates basins. That, of course, translates into a similar decline in the flow of the two rivers through my country, Iraq, coupled with increased demand for shared water due, inter alia, to population growth and the needs of economic development, which leads to unfair competition for the downstream countries, including Iraq. In the uncertain political and security situation of the Middle East, the refusal to cooperate,

non-respect for existing uses and the inequity of access to water represent a real threat to peace and stability in the region.

The combined effect of climate change and the operational modes of large dams have led, for example, to a decline in the rate of inflow of the Euphrates river by 50 per cent over the past 20 years. They have changed the patterns and seasons of the natural water flow and led to the shrinking of the green cover and expanding desertification. Consequently, the average temperature has increased by at least 1.5°C in Baghdad and southern Iraq, which represents a loss of at least 15 per cent in land productivity, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and an increase in unused land as a result of water scarcity or agriculatural marginalization.

Our observations show that nearly 90 per cent of Iraq's historically fertile land is threatened by desertification to varying degrees, resulting from global warming and water scarcity. The same applies to the countries of the region. Egypt, and this year Iraq, have therefore been forced to limit the amount of cultivated land and prohibit the cultivation of certain agricultural crops that people historically used to grow, owing to water scarcity. This undermines deeply rooted social, economic and cultural traditions and causes food insecurity for millions of people.

Climate change and the depletion of water resources destroy the fertility of the soil and make it barren, forcing people to move to another location where their living conditions may be just as severe owing to their inability to adapt and to their vulnerability, with dwindling water resources and scattered and unpredictable rainfall due to climate change.

What is more threatening here is that the displacement of rural populations, who are usually the food producers, means a double loss: a decrease in the number of food producers, on the one hand, and an increase in the number of food-insecure people on the other. It is therefore only fair for the international community to intervene positively in order to enhance resilience and stability in the face of harsh changes in living conditions in fragile areas or areas most vulnerable to climate change. This will require supporting adaptation programmes, which is environmentally and economically less expensive than attempts to accommodate migrants elsewhere after they have abandoned their land because it is no longer fertile and cannot return to it.

This is in addition to the fact that proactive and preventive measures can avoid humanitarian tragedies, which most heavily impact women, children and other vulnerable social groups. In fact, many of the measures required may be legally binding on States parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification or the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as covered by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

If I had to cite an example, I would point to the grave deterioration in the environment of the Iraqi delta at the mouth of the Gulf, the famous waterway known as Shatt Al-Arab, which is the historical location of the legend of Sinbad and the Garden of Eden, according to certain holy books and religions. It is a striking example of the change in a freshwater ecology characterized by fertile soil and dense forests of palm trees, and its transformation into a mainly lifeless environment due to advancing seawater owing to less fresh water coming from the river streams of the Tigris, Euphrates, Karkhah and Karon. The same danger threatens the Nile delta and other rivers in the region, ultimately forcing millions of people below the poverty line to migrate.

I would refer also to an important site where the ancient Sumerian civilization was born. It is a unique and ancient water formation, at the confluence of the great rivers in Mesopotamia at the mouth of the Gulf, on the edge of the desert known as the Iraqi Mesopotamian marshlands, which historically covered an area of more than 15,000 square kilometres. There the ancient Sumerian lifestyles have continued without interruption to this very day, like the old civilizations in Egypt and the Indian peninsula, where great historic cities were founded such as Ur, Erido, Uruk and others.

This significant site was criminally and deliberately dried up by the infamous Iraqi dictator who was overthrown in 2003. Subsequent Governments undertook restoration programmes and successfully brought back to life large areas of the marshlands. The site, which was listed as a World Heritage Site in July 2016, is now gradually drying up because of climate change and a change in the waterways or because of water depletion.

The descendants of the Sumerians, who live in the marshlands and who breed cattle, have asked me to convey to the international community their call

for saving their water environment, lifestyle and human heritage. This can be achieved only when international conventions and parameters are respected by neighbouring countries, and when standards are set that are aimed at preserving biodiversity and traditional lifestyles.

We cannot ignore the destruction caused by the terrorist organization Da'esh in Iraq or the damage deliberately inflicted on civil and water installations. Terrorism is an international phenomenon, not a regional one. Regardless of the different interpretations as to the root causes of the phenomenon of terrorism in many regions, the fact is that instability and economic and social fragility contribute to the spread of extremism and acts of revenge. This requires coordinated interventions to address hotspots that threaten peace and stability. We believe that measures to adapt to climate change are part and parcel of addressing social, economic and political challenges and that SDG 13, on climate change, is of particular benefit to our region.

Lastly, I was asked to deliver a message from the Iraqi Government to the Council reaffirming the country's commitment to peace, security and development and to adopting a joint cooperation approach with neighbouring countries that is based on respect, mutual benefit, international law and the reasonable and equitable utilization of shared water resources. Given that climate change is a global phenomenon that knows no political borders, comprehensive regional approaches based on the provisions of international law as well as initiatives based on diplomacy among riparian States, such as water diplomacy and global security initiatives, along with environmentally smart programmes, could prevent tension and instability from arising and create an environment conducive to defeating terrorism, speeding up the rebuilding of various infrastructures, and enhancing mechanisms for adaptation to climate change and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Iraq commends the supporting role of the international community in defeating terrorism on its territory and calls for respect for its water rights and for protecting the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. We believe that this will help spread peace and security in the region.

The President: I thank Minister Janabi for his briefing. I now give the floor to Ms. Ibrahim.

Ms. Ibrahim: Anyone who believes in peace and security and sits in this Security Council Chamber has to consider climate change as a security risk. I know that many people here today read the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, but it is my duty to tell the Security Council that my community — nomadic pastoralists moving from one place to another in search of water and pastures for our survival — knows nothing at all about the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

My people do not know that there is such a thing as a Security Council where a group of people sits and thinks about peace around the world. My people are living climate change. Climate change has an impact on their daily lives and gives them insecurity. When they sleep at night, they dream that they will wake up the next day and be able to get food or water for their children. They also dream that if someone gets to the resources before they do they will have to fight for them. My people do not sit in offices all day and wait for their salaries to be paid at the end of the month so they can feed their families.

More than 80 per cent of the communities in my region of the Sahel depend on the environment — on agriculture, fishing and the raising of livestock — for their livelihoods. On a daily basis they have to go out and fight to feed their families. Practically speaking, because we are nomadic we have to follow the changing patterns of water and pasture. In the past decade, however, we have been forced to experience the impact a changing climate has had on all our resources.

Natural resources are indeed shrinking. Council members have of course already heard about what is happening to Lake Chad, but there are many other places where water is now disappearing forever. People have to fight to gain access to these shrinking natural resources, resulting in local conflicts that are spreading every day. These local conflicts grow into national conflicts and then become regional conflicts. Even worse, these places where these people live become a fertile place for terror. All around these places, terrorist groups are growing. Why are they growing? Perhaps it is because of their ideologies, but it may also be because the opportunity to take advantage of people who are becoming poorer and poorer every day is also growing.

In my region, men and women have different responsibilities. Men are responsible for feeding their families. If a man cannot do that, it is a great humiliation. He will lose his dignity. To preserve that dignity, he has only two choices — he can join a

terrorist group because, as a human being, he needs to feed his family, or leave the place where he is. If he does that, he joins the internal migration that creates conflict in his region. There is also external migration, which also occurs because people have no other choice. We have all heard the sad story about how migrants are being treated in Libya in this, the twenty-first century. But people continue to go because they have no choice. Either they go there and jump into the sea to save their human dignity or they stay home to fight and die.

For me, as one who comes from these communities, I see babies and young people growing up in this area and think about them in the next decade or the next 20 years. What will their futures be like? Are they also going to jump in the sea? Are they also going to join terrorist groups? Or are they just going to kill each other because, in order to survive, they have to eat?

Council members have to go beyond the Paris Agreement and the United Nations agency fighting climate change. The fight has to be a global one. It has to be a global fight because globalization can be a curse or an opportunity. In my community, where a radio is hard to come by, it is easy to find a bottle of Coca Cola. This makes us wonder why we get useless things, instead of a great solution, access to energy, help in getting to school or to health services, or support for finding other alternatives in life, leading to a peace and a prosperous future for all.

Most development aid goes to cities, but because the problems are all in the rural areas, the solution must also come from there. My people are always fighting for peace — to combat climate change — but we cannot do that alone, because resources are not always available. We need both tools and capacity. Members of the Council need to come to our countries to see how we are living. Our way of life needs to be observed. Solutions need to be found. These solutions could be very inexpensive because they could be derived from the traditional knowledge we already have.

I would like to conclude by saying that my people do not have a choice. We do not have a choice, but members of the Security Council do have a choice. They choose to sit in the Council. They choose to fight for peace and security around the world. I therefore urge them consider climate change to be a security risk. Council members must give my people — men, women, young people — hope. In fact, the Security Council should give my people something greater than hope because we deserve something more than mere survival: we deserve a life like everyone else's.

The President: I thank Ms. Ibrahim for her briefing.

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden.

I am honoured to preside over today's debate on climate-related security risks. I am a bit taken aback by the previous speaker. Nevertheless, I thank all the briefers for their statements this morning. Their testimonies all say one thing, despite coming from different perspectives: the security risks associated with climate change are real. Minister Janabi spoke of how Iraq is grappling with the harsh weather conditions and intense droughts that will affect his country's fragile security. Ms. Hindou Ibrahim just vividly described the challenges facing pastoralists in the Lake Chad Basin, as ecosystems — and old power structures — shift. Let me also thank the speakers representing groups of affected countries who will share their experiences with us. Also, I extend special thanks to His Excellency President Baron Waqa of Nauru for being here today.

Last week, we met men and women who are dealing at first hand with the everyday consequences that a changing climate is having on peace and security. They are migrants and refugees displaced as a result of drought or floods. They are the breadwinners no longer able to feed their families because, much like Lake Chad itself, their traditional fishing or farming livelihoods have evaporated, giving rise to tensions. They are women leaders working in their communities to prevent youth from becoming victims of radicalization by groups that prey on the vulnerable. They do not have the choice of ignoring those realities, and neither do we.

The link between climate and security continues to be a priority for Sweden in the SecurityCouncil. It is time for the Council to catch up with the changing reality on the ground. It has been seven years since we last debated climate and security (see S/PV.6587). It is past time for us to deepen our understanding of how climate change interacts with drivers of conflict.

I will be very practical, as I like to be. I believe there are four areas that need to be addressed.

First, in order to properly address threats to peace and security and to guarantee the Council's future efficiency, we need a better understanding of climate-related security risks. We have made an important start over the last 18 months by recognizing

the adverse effects of climate change on stability in the Lake Chad Basin, West Africa and the Sahel.

Secondly, we need improved tools, analysis and reporting from the field to better address climate-related security challenges. The presidential statement on climate and security adopted seven years ago (S/PRST/2011/15) asked for better reporting. However, that knowledge and information gap still exists, and it urgently needs to be filled.

To be able to make informed decisions on how best to respond to the conflicts on our agenda, we must have all the information on what is driving them. That includes how a changing climate is contributing to those conflicts. Climate-risk assessments should be part and parcel of relevant reporting to the Security Council. How climate risks interact with political, social and economic factors, as well as gender dimensions, should be taken into account. It is clear that climate risk has the potential to play an ever-increasing role in driving future conflicts. We need to invest in early warning in order to better understand where those potential vulnerabilities lie. To that end, we would welcome regular, forward-looking regional and global reporting from the Secretariat on climate-related security risks.

Thirdly, to deliver on all of that, an institutional home for those issues within the United Nations system is needed — we hope that Ms. Amina Mohammed might be the mother of that home — maybe under the leadership of a special representative, with responsibility for bringing together information from all relevant United Nations agencies. Reporting and analysis should also draw on available research from outside the United Nations system, perhaps through a network of universities and other research institutes that can provide us with that. I am pleased to announce the launch of a Stockholm-based knowledge hub for climate security later this summer. That hub will increase the collective understanding of those issues and will be available to the United Nations and other actors by providing evidence-based analysis.

An enhanced understanding of climate-related security risks and how to address them in the Security Council should not, and will not, duplicate the responsibilities of the General Assembly or other United Nations bodies. Instead, it will ensure that all United Nations bodies deliver on their respective mandates to the best of their ability and that the system collectively delivers more than the sum of its parts.

Fourthly and lastly, in framing our response, we need to look to the countries on the front line and learn from their experiences and from good practices. For example, Nepal and the Sudan, with United Nations support, are taking steps to address climate-related risks through pilot projects that map such risks, with the aim of identifying resilience-building interventions and programming.

The Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum was established this year to enhance joint efforts towards building peace and fostering sustainable development across the region. It has confirmed the importance of applying a holistic approach to complex and interlinked security challenges, including climate change.

Led by the African Union Commission, the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative is a truly integrated project for climate, security and peace. It aims to halt desertification, boost food security and build resilience to climate change, while creating jobs. That is conflict prevention and sustaining peace in practice. We must capitalize on that knowledge on the ground and integrate it into our efforts to end conflict and sustain peace.

Regional organizations such as the African Union and the European Union, as well as the Pacific small island developing States, the Alliance of Small Island States and the Caribbean Community, are already providing momentum to the international response to climate-related security risks. It is now imperative that the United Nations catches up and takes the lead in facilitating and coordinating global efforts, working with regional partners and other stakeholders.

The Secretary-General's climate summit in September 2019 represents a pivotal moment to make progress on the issue. The concrete steps I have mentioned today should work towards guaranteeing that climate-related security risks are on the agenda at that summit.

The threat that a changing climate presents to our societies and to international peace and security cannot be underestimated. It has already created a new reality for the communities that we met in the Sahel. To realistically and meaningfully respond to their needs, address the conflicts of today, meet the call of Hindou Ibrahim and others and prevent the conflicts of tomorrow, we can no longer afford to ignore that threat.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I call on the Prime Minister of Curaçao, Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Mr. Rhuggenaath (Netherlands): I would like to thank Minister Wallström of Sweden for organizing today's debate on climate-related security risks. I also wholeheartedly thank Deputy Secretary-General Mohammed, Minister Janabi and Ms. Ibrahim for their excellent and valuable testimonies and briefings. In addition, it is great to see fellow small island developing States at this table.

I am particularly pleased to be here today, because we are discussing a topic that directly affects my country. As the Prime Minister of Curaçao, a small island developing State in the Caribbean, I can attest to the fact that the link between climate change and security is clear and undeniable to our people and to those of other countries of the Kingdom, particularly Aruba and Sint Maarten. Increased climate variability threatens social stability. It can ultimately lead to displacement and regional tensions. Where climate change threatens international stability and security, the Council has a responsibility to act.

What if we had known 15 years ago that in 2018, millions of people in the Lake Chad region would need relief assistance to survive, with water stress as one of the threat multipliers? What if we had known that millions of people from Somalia would still be displaced against the backdrop of severe droughts? What if we had known that climate change would constitute an existential threat to small island development States like my own?

Those questions may seem irrelevant, since we cannot change the course of history. But what we can change is how we apply the lessons we have learned so far. By responding in a timely manner to warning signs, also when it comes to climate-related security risks, we can adequately address root causes, prevent instability and conflict and sustain peace in the future.

Recently, the Council has taken significant steps towards recognizing climate-related security risks, as you, Madam President, just mentioned. The first was the adoption of resolution 2349 (2017), on the Lake Chad basin, followed by presidential statement S/PRST/2018/3 on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel and resolution 2408 (2018) on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia. There was also the request that the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq assist the Government of Iraq in facilitating regional dialogue and cooperation on water and most recently the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. I also recall the briefing on the Lake Chad basin under our Kingdom's presidency (see S/PV.8212) in which the majority of us agreed that climate change is a threat multiplier in the region. The Council is starting to prove that it is responsive to the security impact of climate change where and when it matters.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands strongly believes that the Security Council must ensure appropriate action by the United Nations, in New York, but especially on the ground in affected countries. That requires the United Nations to have the capabilities that match the extent of the challenge. By that I mean, first, an increased analytical capability, which is needed for joint risk assessments, conflict analysis and early warning, and I truly hope we can agree on the need for better analytical information. Secondly, it requires the capability to manage risks by encouraging more and better programming, notably prevention, stabilization and development efforts that are conflict and climate sensitive. Thirdly, it requires monitoring and assessing progress and modifying our programming when necessary. We will continue to encourage the Secretary-General to include climate-related risks in his reports to the Council when and where that applies.

To advance that agenda, we also believe that the United Nations needs an institutional home on climate and security. Therefore, we applaud the initiative to launch a knowledge hub on that subject. The United Nations needs institutionalized cooperation that is properly coordinated and embedded across the Organization and that will enhance and accelerate how existing United Nations agencies tackle this challenge. As a current member of the Council, we are ready to shoulder our responsibility and contribute to that end. On many occasions, the necessary actions will need to be taken on the ground by entities other than the Security Council. Both the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies have a role in assessing and managing climate-related security risks. In addition, the international community at large should also play its part.

Assuming our responsibility, the Kingdom of the Netherlands continues to offer a platform for

the climate and security debate through our annual Planetary Security Conference, in which Curaçao will also participate. We hope all interested parties make optimal use of that platform to explore solutions to the climate-related security risks in Mali, Iraq, Lake Chad and, of course, the Caribbean small island developing States.

Climate-related insecurity can affect us all. As the Prime Minister of Fiji put it, we are all in the same canoe. I also would like to cite Thomas Friedman, who concluded that "the only way to steer is to paddle as fast as or faster than the rate of change", in this case climate change.

In conclusion, we believe the Council has an important role to play. It is up to the Security Council to prevent instability, insecurity and the displacement and suffering of people everywhere. The Council therefore has to fulfil its responsibility to call for appropriate action when stability is at risk and in the case of climate-related threats to ensure peace for future generations.

We heard that climate change changes everything for everyone everywhere. This is our call and this is our moment.

Mr. Ashibayev (Kazakhstan): Let me start by congratulating you, Minister Wallström, and Sweden on assuming the Council's presidency for the month of July. I would also like to thank Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Amina Mohammed, Minister of Water Resources of Iraq Mr. Hassan Janabi, and civil society briefer Ms. Hindou Ibrahim for warning us about the need for urgent national, regional and global action.

The problem of climate change is becoming a central theme throughout the world community, which has significant economic, environmental and social consequences. Climate change is a threat multiplier as it can result in poverty, food insecurity, illegal migration, internal displacement, social instability and bitter conflicts because high-risk areas are essentially agricultural. The fight over scarce natural resources, such as land and water, have also resulted in long and brutal hostilities. The refugee problem and mass movements of people across the world due to climate-related causes are today resulting in animosity, xenophobia and exclusion and ending in unintended political upheavals. We have also seen violent insurgencies and terrorist organizations gaining a foothold when a vacuum is created.

With regard to today's topic of discussion, I would like to make the following observations and recommendations.

Climate-related security threats must be seen through the need for climate diplomacy and should be a part of overall United Nations efforts in conflict prevention. Combating climate-related security threats should also be an underpinning concept of sustaining peace, which should not be an end process, but rather incorporated and running parallel to prevention, resolution, recovery and rehabilitation.

Better climate-related security risk assessments and management strategies are required. Preventive action needs to be taken, such as foreseeing and mitigating timely action for building resilience through early action aimed at investigating and mitigating risk disasters. We need international cooperation and joint projects to build the capacity of developing countries to invest in new and diversified economies, live stock and other forms of livelihood. We also need to support low-income countries, adapt to new technologies and invest in renewable sources of energy.

The issue of climate change is one of the priorities of my country, considering the increased number of emergency situations, their scale and the growing number of affected people. Kazakhstan and the entire central Asian region has had its own tragic experience with the dying Aral Sea. That environmental disaster has brought many challenges and problems for the population and nature in neighbouring States, and has affected almost 60 million people.

Timely action taken by Kazakhstan in cooperation with the World Bank in putting a dam separating a small part of the Aral Sea helped to almost restore the water bed and restart the commercial fishery industry in the Kazakh part of the Aral Sea. However, the Aral Sea could definitely be seen as a threat multiplier in central Asia, as it aggravates existing problems, such as access to fresh water, desertification, food insecurity and many more. Concerned with that situation, central Asian nations established the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, which will have its next meeting of heads of State on 24 August under the chairmanship of Turkmenistan.

Kazakhstan for its part has taken voluntary action to cut the use of fossil fuels by 2030 and replace them with renewable energy by 2050. Kazakhstan is committed to upholding the Paris Agreement on Climate Change

and will continue to fulfil its obligations. From June to September 2017, we hosted the Astana Expo 2017 devoted to the theme of future energy to showcase and promote best practices in the field of sustainable energy and to provide support for developing countries in that sphere. The Expo site has been transformed into the International Centre for Green Technology to advance our efforts to curb climate change.

Kazakhstan stands ready to unite with others for global security. That is why the focus of our Security Council election campaign has been on food, water, energy and nuclear security. Those are enduring values even beyond our term in the Council.

Ms. Pierce (United Kingdom): May I once again thank and congratulate Sweden for selecting such a good menu of themes for us to discuss in the Security Council. I was here in 2007 for the first Security Council climate change debate (see S/PV.5663), and I think that today's discussion is already shaping up to be a very worthy continuation in that area. It is obvious that there is a great deal of common ground. I thank the Ministers who have taken the time to be present here in the Council today to share their very interesting, compelling and sad stories.

The Earth is known as the Blue Planet but many of today's speakers have described the way in which the most iconic geographic features of the planet are being irredeemably affected by climate change, which serves as an important warning to us all. It is hoped that today's meeting will provide us with a renewed sense of commitment to taking action. I would like in particular to welcome the remarks made earlier by the Minister of Water Resources of Iraq about joint cooperation with neighbouring countries in an attempt to solve some of the resource problems that flow from climate change.

As many others here would agree, it was Ms. Ibrahim's briefing about her people that was the most compelling. She painted a very graphic picture of the link between development and security, what it means on the ground for ordinary families and how vulnerable they are to developments, such as terrorist acts, because of the incredibly stark and unfair choices they face. I thank her for bringing that to the Council's attention. We in the United Kingdom will work as hard as we can with Sweden and other partners in an attempt to assist the United Nations in finding answers to the points raised by various Ministers today.

This topic must be considered holistically throughout the United Nations system. We very much welcome some of the ideas that you, Madam President, and the representative of Netherlands have outlined. The interplay between climate and security is not an abstract theoretical risk. If we do not manage climate change, it will threaten lives, livelihoods and economies across the globe. Along with migration, it will begin to have an impact on all economies, including those not directly affected by climate change. One statistic that really struck me was one provided by the World Bank, which estimates that 720 million people are at risk of being pushed into poverty by climate change by 2050. That is not only a shocking statistic in itself; it also means that climate change would reverse much of the progress made in the first quarter of the twenty-first century. We are therefore working against ourselves if we do not act to address the topic. That is in addition to the fact that there will be other consequences of conflict and instability that arise from climate change.

My Prime Minister, Theresa May, has gone on record to say that there is a clear moral imperative for developed economies to help those who stand to lose most from the consequences of climate change. We have pledged $7.7 billion in international climate financing to help alleviate the problem. The actions and solutions we agree on in the Security Council must take into account all the risks we face today and how they might interact, so as to address potential risks in the future. If I may say so, I believe that the Council has been quite good about reflecting those points in recent resolutions, in particular those on Lake Chad, Somalia and the Sahel. Our task is to effectively implement those resolutions.

For our part in the United Kingdom, we have committed to championing a sharper focus on building resilience to climate change. Ahead of the Secretary-General's 2019 climate summit, we will be collaborating with a range of actors, including Governments, aid agencies, regional bodies and the United Nations, to launch actions we hope will be genuinely transformational in order to build climate resilience. As i said, Madam President, we completely agree with you that we need an improved understanding of climate-related risks. We ourselves have been working on climate-risk assessment and were among the first countries to conduct a national climate-change risk assessment. We will support other countries in conducting their assessments. We have worked very

closely with experts in China, India and the United States to look at complex systemic risks, including how climate change interacts with security. Together with the Chinese, we will develop a framework to monitor climate-related risks continuously, which we hope to launch later this year. Therefore, there is a great deal of good work being done. We can all support each other and ensure that we build on our progress, rather than duplicate it.

I will conclude by saying that we have always known, in particular in the United Nations, about the interdependence between security, development, stability and other issues, such as human rights. That in itself is not a new concept; indeed, the Charter of the United Nations alludes to it. It is true to say that it is now all intensifying as the world become increasingly complex. Above all, it is exemplified by climate change, which was given a very moving voice by Ms. Ibrahim's testimony. I hope that we can all leave here with renewed determination to put right some of the problems highlighted by speakers.

Mr. Meza-Cuadra (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): We also are grateful for the convening of today's meeting on a very pressing and important subject. We thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister of Water Resources of Iraq, for their important briefings. We also thank Ms. Hindou Ibrahim, civil society representative, for her testimony, which I believe has inspired us all.

Peru believes it is crucial to understand that the growing socioeconomic and environmental impacts of climate change lead to humanitarian crises and conflicts, which, because of their scope, could pose a threat to international peace and security. We also believe that the primary responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of peace and security includes resolving and preventing the emergence, recurrence or worsening of conflicts and humanitarian crises, while addressing their root causes, with a view to promoting lasting peace. We therefore believe that the Council must strengthen and systematize its coordination with the United Nations system, in particular with those bodies and agencies directly involved in preventing and mitigating the negative effects of climate change, especially with regard to the most vulnerable people. We stress that such coordination should take into account the competencies and mandates of the various United Nations entities and promote synergies that are conducive to addressing the particular needs and situations of risk, crisis or conflict that Member States increasingly face. From the perspective of the Council, we believe that entails having timely information on the impact of climate change, both with regard to the situations on its agenda and those in which preventive action is necessary to maintain international peace and security.

Peru is a country that is vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. The retreat of tropical Andean glaciers has led to frequent droughts and flooding, which have resulted in food insecurity and new waves of migration, which in turn pose challenges to lasting peace. The situation compels us to reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism and to underscore that growing global interdependence demands that the Organization provide more coherent and effective responses to common problems and challenges, including climate change, poverty and inequality. In that regard, we emphasize that the Security Council can and should base its actions on a better understanding of contemporary challenges and of the factors of crisis and conflict, on a case by case basis, as well as of the necessary tools to address them.

We therefore appreciate the fact that since March 2017, the Security Council has recognized the adverse effects of climate change in areas such as the Sahel, Somalia and Lake Chad, which affect tens of millions of people. We especially appreciate that such recognition confirms the need for responses from the international community, and from the Council in particular. They should be based on an adequate assessment of the risks and the strategies to manage them. That accords with the reforms advocated by the Secretary-General.

We conclude by stressing the importance of working jointly on these issues, including with regional and subregional organizations, financial institutions, the private sector, academia and civil society, using holistic strategies that are more coherent, effective and efficient.

To summarize, let us work in a more coordinated manner to face the great challenge that lies before us within the scope of our respective competencies.

Mr. Cohen (United States of America): We thank you, Madam President, for convening this meeting. We also would like to thank the Deputy Secretary-General, Minister Janabi and Ms. Ibrahim for their important and compelling briefings this morning.

The task of addressing challenges to peace and security is complex and is influenced by many factors. The United States remains committed to strengthening international security in a comprehensive manner, and we recognize the efforts of the United Nations in helping to advance our understanding of emerging issues related to human security, including this one.

The Council most often is focused on armed conflict as the most conventional threat to international peace and security, but it is right that we also consider natural phenomena and disasters such as droughts, monsoons, tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes, desertification, volcanic eruptions and other such events. They have taken lives, destroyed homes, impacted resources and caused widespread displacement both within and beyond national borders. Unlike conflicts, where there are sides to be taken, in response to these crises we are all on the same side: the side of survival, recovery and resilience.

In many parts of the world where vulnerable populations suffer from natural disasters, displacement and food and water scarcity, the United States is partnering with Governments and regional organizations to bring relief to those who need it most. We are applying innovative solutions to help communities better prepare for and respond to climate-related pressures. One example of United States assistance is in Iraq, where high temperatures and drought conditions present a particularly daunting challenge. We are the single largest donor to Iraqi-led stabilization programming supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which includes projects to restore access to household water and electricity in areas formerly under the control of Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham.

The United States has provided $265 million to the UNDP Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization since 2014. Those stabilization activities have helped set the conditions for more than 3 million Iraqis to return to their homes. That funding from the United States has enabled UNDP to fix water treatment plants and water networks, as well as to repair bridges across the Tigris and allow for greater freedom of movement.

At the request of the Government of Iraq, the United States has also played an essential role in maintaining Iraq's critical water infrastructure, especially at the Mosul Dam, the structural integrity of which was in question and which is vital to water management for millions of Iraqis living downstream. At significant expense, the United States deployed the United States Army Corps of Engineers to oversee the contracts awarded by Iraq to an Italian firm for emergency grouting and dam maintenance. The ongoing stabilization of the dam's foundation will allow the Iraqi Government to store more water to mitigate scarcity resulting from severe drought.

More broadly, the United States is also working closely with Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands to address specific challenges associated with shared waters through the Shared Waters Partnership managed by the Stockholm International Water Institute. We have been working together to promote the cooperative management of shared waters around the world where water is, or may become, a source of tension.

As the Lake Chad region grapples with its own water management issues, the United States is listening carefully to learn more about the challenges citizens there face and welcomes further dialogue on efforts to promote sustainable development there.

The United States acknowledges the special challenges that small island developing States face in achieving sustainable development, challenges related to their size, geographic isolation from markets and limited infrastructure and institutional capacity. We have heard from our friends in the Pacific that they consider climate change to be an existential threat to their populations, and we understand the priority they place on the United Nations system and the international community supporting their unique needs.

Our support for small island developing States takes many forms. We are taking concrete action to address priorities identified in the Samoa Pathway, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and other bilateral and multilateral initiatives. We participate in the Small Island Developing States Action Platform, and, in addition, the United States is seeking new ways to improve cooperation and align our programmes more closely with the priorities of small island developing States.

Disaster risk reduction and building resilience to cope with natural disasters are important elements of promoting sustainable development and eradicating extreme poverty. As appropriate, that should be

integrated into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels.

As a global leader in innovation, the United States continues to support access to cleaner and more efficient energy sources; the promotion of effective and sustainable land use practices and other activities aimed at improving resilience, particularly where such support benefits broader mutual economic development, and foreign policy and national security objectives. The United States wants to work with other countries to continue advancing the development and deployment of a broad array of technologies that will ultimately enable us to achieve greater resilience in the face of these daunting challenges. Once again, we appreciate this opportunity to reflect on these issues.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): At the outset I would like to thank you, Madam President, for taking the initiative to convene this Council debate on the problem of climate change and its consequences for international peace and security. It is a critical issue to which we must pay all the attention it deserves.

I would also like to thank the Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed, for her important presentation, as well as for her commitment and her efforts in the fight against climate change. I also warmly thank the Minister of Water Resources of Iraq, Mr. Hassan Janabi, and Ms. Hindou Ibrahim for their very enlightening and inspiring statements.

Not a day goes by without an increasing number of us falling victim to the consequences of climate change and environmental degradation. While extreme climate events are often the most visible, other phenomena with less immediate effects — such as droughts, the salinization of soils and rising water levels — contribute to land degradation, coastal erosion and the depletion of water resources. Those negative impacts on natural resources, in the context of vulnerable populations and economies, can generate or re-ignite conflicts between communities, provoke population displacement and jeopardize international peace and security.

The eloquent statements we have heard this morning are a stark reminder that the impacts of climate change are imultiplying the risks to international stability. That is already the tough reality in many parts of the world, from the Sahel to the Middle East. Yet it also constitutes a threat to many other regions that are stable today but which will suffer the impacts of climate change tomorrow, affecting the stability of our countries and our societies in ways we could not have prevented.

In this context, I would like to share five main messages with the Council this morning.

My first message is a call to action. As our speakers emphasized, the threat of climate change to international peace and security is an objective fact that we cannot deny. Its effects are already being painfully felt and they will go on automatically increasing. From now on, we cannot turn a blind eye. It is our collective responsibility to tackle this existential challenge head-on and use all the tools at our disposal to address it. It is urgent, because every day lost makes the threat worse.

My second message has to do with the institutional debate that often resurfaces in our statements on the subject. Considering the urgency and importance of these challenges, we must rise above institutional arguments. The General Assembly and the Security Council must speak out on this threat to international peace and security, which concerns us all. However, I want to reassure everyone that the fact we are discussing the effects of climate change on international security here in the Council in no way undermines the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or the Paris Climate Change Agreement, which remain the multilateral frame of reference for the fight against climate change. In that regard, I would like to remind all concerned that our priority is ratifying the Paris Agreement and that we will have to collectively adopt rules for implementing it in December, under the Polish presidency of the twenty-fourth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. That is an essential condition for maintaining the positive momentum launched in Paris in 2015 in the fight against climate change and for ensuring that every country implements ambitious climate policies, as many countries, including China, for instance, have already done.

That is how we will be able to fulfil our collective commitment to keep the rise in the average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius and, if possible, 1.5 degrees. But the fact is that when we speak of the effects of climate change on international peace and security — and this is my third message — we are engaging in the process of conflict prevention. Here in New York, the international community must take ownership of the matter and decide to cooperate in dealing with the impact on international peace and security produced by the effects of climate change and

establish genuine preventive diplomacy to do that. In that regard, I want to voice our strong support for the Secretary-General's vision and ambition regarding conflict prevention and the peace continuum, which must comprehend all destabilizing factors, including those related to the effects of climate change and the collapse of biodiversity.

My fourth message concerns the ways in which we can ensure that the United Nations has a robust analytical capacity in this area. In that regard, we welcome the progress that the Council has made in the past few months in recognizing the adverse effects of climate change in various regions such as the Lake Chad basin, Somalia and Mali, as well as in calling for better assessment and management of climate change and ecological risks. Those advances should now be translated into concrete action. That demands that the United Nations develop its capacity to analyse risks in order to warn us about the security risks related to climate change in every region of the world. The Deputy Secretary-General has reminded us of the remarkable initiatives that she has undertaken with the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, and France fully supports and actively endorses those crucial major efforts. What we want to do is to expand that approach to other regions of the world. It will now also be necessary to take a next step and recommend measures and actions to be implemented by national Governments, United Nations agencies and regional organizations to both prevent the adverse effects of climate change on security and protect and restore biodiversity.

Finally, my fifth message is that the entire United Nations system must mobilize to tackle the challenges related to the security implications of climate change. The Secretariat, the General Assembly and the Security Council have a shared responsibility in that regard. They must rely on all of the specialized agencies and institutions dealing with the environment, together with the United Nations Environment Programme; they must work on climate with the UNFCCC, the World Meteorological Organization and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; on agriculture with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and on desertification with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in order to come up with appropriate analyses, propose courses of action and implement them on the ground.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you, Madam President, of France's resolute commitment to working alongside you to build a multilateral, twenty-first-century diplomacy that fully integrates the effects of climate change into its approach to conflict prevention. In the face of the reality of climate change, one of the greatest challenges of our time, we must move forward together and with our eyes wide open.

Mr. Polyanskiy (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, as well as today's briefers, Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister of Water Resources of Iraq, and Ms. Hindou Ibrahim, the representative of the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change. We would like to welcome President Waqa of Nauru and to acknowledge the great significance that climate change holds for his country. Russia also considers this issue extremely important. We are one of the leaders of the international climate process, both because of our contribution to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions and our efforts to universalize the regime on climate change under the auspices of the United Nations Frameworks Convention on Climate Change. My country is making active use of innovative approaches based on introducing cutting-edge technologies.

My statement may not be in tune with those of other Security Council members before me today. That said, however, I have to say that we are disappointed about today's Council meeting, and not because we object to collective efforts to combat climate change. Quite the contrary. We refuse to be reconciled to the fact that in our view today's meeting is yet another attempt to link the issue of preserving the environment to threats to international peace and security. Regrettably, we are creating the illusion among those who follow our work that the Council is now taking on the climate issue and that will immediately bring about a turning point. That is a dangerous illusion and a clear deception.

In various countries and regions, attempts are being made to ascribe a worsening socioeconomic and political situation to the climate factor. The resulting conclusion is that climate change is a threat to security generally, and yet those who promulgate that idea do not as a rule make the effort to bring scientifically sound, specific details to bear or clear explanations of the notions of security, conflict, threats or stability as they relate to the climate issue. These words are used in a very general sense while demanding that we recognize highly abstract connections. Such actions not

only do not help anyone, they mislead everybody and distract the Council from dealing with issues where it can make a genuine contribution to the quest for the right solution.

I will say it again. While we believe that climate change is a grave threat to us all, the Council has neither the specialized expertise nor the tools to put together viable solutions for effectively combating climate change. I am once again obliged to point out that climate change is not a universal challenge in the context of international security but should rather be addressed with regard to the specifics of each situation. Besides that, the role of the United Nations is to give support to States, which have the primary responsibility for responding to security challenges within their national borders and for independently determining strategies for that. Our international Organization should adhere strictly to the principle of the division of labour in its work and in the understanding that each of the main United Nations organs should operate within its area of responsibility.

The basis for introducing climate issues in the Security Council is frequently the premise that climate change is a so-called threat multiplier and a catalyst for acts of violence. If we are so principled about this, why are we always silent during the discussions initiated on this pretext about a no less serious aspect of the issue, the damage to the environment that results from violent military operations and unilateral sanctions, a glaring example of which have been the bombings of Yugoslavia, Libya and Syria by Western coalitions? It is strange, to say the least, that no speakers today have expressed concern about the massive environmental damage that such action inflicts, not to mention the colossal harm to the health of the citizens of those countries.

It is no secret that NATO's bombing of the territory of the former Yugoslavia using munitions with radioactive compounds, chiefly depleted uranium, that pollute the environment, spawned a surge in cancers and had an adverse impact on the general and reproductive health of the population living in the affected areas, which to this day still need decontamination and rehabilitation. The situation following the Libyan venture has been equally tragic. The NATO rocket strikes and bombings of its oil infrastructure, as well as the operations by armed opposition groups supported by the West in the vicinity of oil enterprises, led to their partial or total destruction, colossal fires and pollution of the atmosphere with the burning of oil and petroleum by-products.

I should not omit to point out that the ongoing illegal presence of Western coalition forces on Syrian territory is an obstacle to the restoration of Government control throughout the country and therefore to the implementation of its national legislative norms on the use of natural resources, including environmental norms, and in general to restoring domestic activity in those areas, including household waste management. The situation is exacerbated by unilateral anti-Syrian sanctions that deprive the country of the possibility of buying the equipment and materials needed for environmentally safe industrial production.

An alarming situation is developing with regard to the work of the Donetsk water filtration station, which has been subject to regular shelling by Ukrainian armed forces. If the chlorine gas in its storage tanks leaks, it could be an environmental and humanitarian disaster. It is hard to believe that the initators of such actions were unaware of the negative consequences of environmental pollution by radioactive materials or the destruction of oil facilities. However, they continue to choose to pay no attention to it and are in no hurry to help to mitigate the damage that has been done. In that connection, we believe that issues of environmental pollution resulting from criminal military operations and illegal unilateral sanctions can be viewed as threats that at the very least are no less significant to the climate problem.

With regard to climate change, I want to say once again that the constant securitization, as it were, of this vital issue irreparably undermines the process of our joint quest to resolve it. This year there are plans to adopt guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. At the same time, the member States of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will discuss joint action and coordination on climate-related efforts in the Talanoa Dialogue Platform, whose founding principles are depoliticizing climate discussions, preventing mutual blame-laying and striving to understand what we can get done by joining forces.

We are just as eager as Ms. Hindou Ibrahim, in her emotional statement today, to ensure that climate change does not interfere with the lives of indigenous peoples. Russia is also helping small island States through its contributions to the United Nations Development Programme. We are ready to help and are

doing all we can to ensure that the collective efforts of the specialized entities and mechanisms can solve these problems, but it is clear that today's discussion in the Council is taking the issue in the exact opposite direction, to speculations on the climate issue and its exploitation to solve purely political problems, impose one-sided standards and abandon practical action for demagoguery and public-relations posturing.

We believe it is essential to allow all the United Nations mechanisms related to combating climate change to do their work in peace, without creating artificially intersecting approaches that merely obstruct the advancement of our shared interests. Only through joint practical action, conducted through the existing expert formats, can we achieve our aim of preserving the global climate in the interests of the current and future generations of humankind.

Ms. Cordova Soría (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to welcome you, Madam President, and to commend the work that the Swedish delegation has been doing as President of the Security Council. I also want to welcome the presence of Mr. Eugene Philip Rhuggenaath, Prime Minister of Curaçao of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and to thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister of Water Resources of Iraq, and Ms. Hindou Ibrahim of the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change for their briefings.

Climate change is one of the most important global challenges of our time. We want to emphasize the fact that developing countries, despite historically being the ones that contribute the least to climate change, continue to suffer the most from its adverse effects and from the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters. According to the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017*, between 1990 and 2015 more than 1.6 million people died due to the effects of climate change. Moreover, between 2000 and 2013, an average of 211 million people were affected due to increasingly extreme natural disasters.

Climate change threatens not only prospects for sustainable development, but also the very existence and survival of the countries, societies and ecosystems of Mother Earth. We deplore the fact that some of the most highly industrialized countries have not taken any responsibility for the problems generated by climate change. Climate change has become an escape valve to avoid discussing basic issues such as how the model of capitalist development, excessive consumption and wasteful production causes or exacerbates the problems of environmental degradation and depletion of resources, thereby impeding the sustainable development of our peoples. In some countries, climate change is an existential threat, while in others it means the loss of biodiversity, an increase in endangered species or the loss of food security. This shortage of natural resources like water can lead to increased social tension. Moreover, as the sea level rises, the conditions in many coastal areas and small islands can progressively deteriorate until they become simply uninhabitable or even disappear.

All those factors could make the population vulnerable to social conflicts or forced to leave their homes; we would then be faced with the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people as climate migrants, possibly generating new conflicts or aggravating existing ones. The adverse effects of climate change have a series of consequences, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of human rights, including the right to life, the right to adequate food, the right to adequate housing, the right to safe drinking water and sanitation, the right to development and the right to peace.

The challenges facing the Security Council in the fulfilment of its mandate are indeed many and complex, but we believe that those that truly jeopardize the efforts of the Council and our Organization to prevent the breach of international peace and security are linked to the insufficient application of the mechanisms provided for in the Charter of the United Nations. We are convinced that it is essential to maintain the focus on the powers and mandates of each organ, carrying out the coordination tasks that allow for the best alternatives to face the problems emerging from conflicts, thereby avoiding the unnecessary duplication of work and, above all, overlap and interference in the specific mandates of the other organs.

We agree that climate change can generate possible causes of conflict and social tension. Nevertheless, we believe that the Security Council is not the appropriate organ or venue to address that issue. We are convinced that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change are the main international and intergovernmental platforms for confronting, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects.

If we intend to address this sensitive and delicate situation, we must essentially analyse the problem's underlying causes. In that regard, Bolivia regrets that the most industrialized countries, instead of confronting causes such as the allegedly civilizing model, which is based on a voracious financial architecture in which the wealth of the majority is concentrated in the hands of a few, continue to promote policies of war with yearly increases to its enormous budget. We are convinced that the military machinery of the most powerful countries on the planet has been busy destroying entire towns and innocent civilizations with the sole desire of appropriating oil, gas or strategic minerals. The high humanitarian cost of these policies of war and appropriation of natural resources goes hand in hand with the military expenses they represent, at the expense of the population and perpetuating the cycle of poverty, need and confrontation.

In that sense, we echo the statement made by President Evo Morales during his speech during the high-level segment of the General Assembly in 2017, when he said:

> "Inequality is immoral. If 800 million people suffer from hunger, it is not because there is a lack of food. If millions of children die from infection, it is not because there is a lack of medicine ... If there are poor people in the world, it is not because there are no resources ... Due to war, terrorism and other conflicts, we are experiencing the worst humanitarian crisis". (*A/72/PV.6, p. 15*)

We call on these so-called developed countries to assume their responsibilities in the framework of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities through financing, technology transfer and capacity-building in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. As a result of the appropriation and exploitation of the natural resources of many of our countries, today we cannot consider ourselves industrialized.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): We once again thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed for her briefing. I would like to express our appreciation to her and to the President of the Council and the Chairperson the African Union for the very important mission they conducted very recently to two African countries that are among those seriously affected by climate change. That visit was very meaningful.

I would also like to thank the other briefers, particularly Ms. Hindou Ibrahim, whose passionate presentation was fully aligned with the purpose of this meeting and the heavy responsibility that briefers have to be as objective as possible and not be partial. That is very critical and we should learn from today's meeting. Frankly, what we heard today almost validates the concerns expressed by some colleagues.

I wish to recognize the presence among us of the President of Nauru and the Prime Ministers of Curaçao, Kingdom of the Netherlands. I would also like to greet the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to the entire global community. No country can remain unaffected, as the Deputy Secretary-General said. Its devastating consequences not only undermine development gains, but they also threaten the very existence of our communities. Although their contribution is negligible, it is well known that it is developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable among them that literally know nothing about how long they can survive, that disproportionately suffer the impacts of climate change.

We therefore underline that climate change requires urgent and concerted global action and responses, anchored primarily in promoting inclusive and sustainable development. That is also why what we did in 2015, when we unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals was so historic and the expression of multilateralism at its best. It is with that in mind that we concur with the assessment of the Council, as reflected in presidential statement S/PRST/2011/15, that

> "possible adverse effects of climate change may, in the long run, aggravate certain existing threats to international peace and security".

We recognize that climate change, in certain circumstances, could create conditions for conflict or exacerbate it. In communities where there is heavy dependence on natural resources for livelihoods, the likelihood of intercommunal violence or cross-border or regional conflicts is high. The situation in the Lake Chad basin or the Sahel region is a clear manifestation of the link between climate change and conflicts, and the briefing by the Deputy Secretary-General yesterday (see S/PV.8306), following her joint high-level visit with the African Union, highlighted that aspect.

On the other hand, it is also important to note that climate change or climate-related environmental

change does not automatically result in conflict. The lack of durable and comprehensive solutions aimed at addressing climate-change-induced migration, insecurities, increased tensions and competition for resources could lead to localized or cross-border conflicts in various parts of the world. In this regard, addressing the root causes of such climate-induced conflicts remains of vital importance. We need to do so in a comprehensive manner; this would require taking concrete measures to reduce the vulnerabilities of States to the impact of climate change and creating a cooperative framework to mitigate such impacts, including climate-induced migration and displacement.

Redoubling our efforts to ensure sustainable development for current and future generations in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, inter alia, is critical. A genuine commitment to multilateralism should make this self-evident. Furthermore, ensuring the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and of our commitments under various frameworks aimed at addressing the adverse impacts of climate change is a prerequisite for addressing climate-change-induced conflicts or security risks.

In this regard, all countries, particularly developed ones, should take concrete measures to honour their commitments and pledges in line with the Paris Agreement by providing sufficient and sustained climate financing to developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable. The facilitation of the transfer of appropriate technology ought, naturally, to be part of this obligation. Such efforts, in our view, would complement national and regional efforts to address the adverse impacts of climate change and prevent climate-change-related security threats and conflicts.

To that end, the General Assembly and its relevant subsidiary bodies and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the relevant intergovernmental frameworks established to address the root causes of climate change and its adverse impacts, should continue to play the primary role, as affirmed by the Security Council in its presidential statement S/PRST/2011/15.

Where the impacts of climate change have become a threat to the maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, has a role in analysing the conflict and the security implications and finding a path to peace and security. The Council, in collaboration with the relevant regional and subregional organizations, could also take concrete measures to manage climate-change-induced security risks and conflicts, in line with comprehensive national and regional priorities. For instance, regional initiatives such as the one by the Economic Community of West African States to conduct a comprehensive study and recommend an action plan to address climate-change-induced conflicts in West Africa could be cited as an example.

In conclusion, I would stress the need for all relevant United Nations organs, within their own mandates, to take concrete measures in line with their national plans and priorities to address the root causes and negative effects of climate change and related security threats or conflicts.

Mr. Ma Zhaoxu (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like at the outset, Madam, to welcome your presence here in New York to preside over this debate. I also thank the Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed, and Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister for Water Resources of the Republic of Iraq, for their briefings, and Ms. Ibrahim, representative of civil society in Chad, for her statement.

Climate change affects human survival and development. It is a daunting global challenge. In recent years, the concerted efforts of countries to protect the global environment and address climate change have yielded remarkable results. However, responding to climate change and achieving sustainable development remains an urgent long-term task for the international community. Given the current circumstances, we must work together to address climate change.

First, it is important for the international community to foster a communal vision of a shared future for humankind and actively rise to global challenges. Countries must strengthen exchanges and cooperation to respond to climate change and provide assistance to developing countries through technology transfer and capacity-building. The United Nations and the relevant international and regional organizations should enhance their coordination and play a positive role in addressing climate change.

Secondly, the international community must uphold equality and justice and ensure that international rules

are effectively respected and implemented. Countries should fully respect the international agreements concluded in the area of climate change, reject a zero-sum mentality, enhance benefit- and responsibility-sharing and endeavour to achieve mutual benefits and a win-win outcome.

Thirdly, the international community must implement the Paris Agreement in earnest. It is important to take into account countries' national circumstances; respect their differences, in particular those of developing countries; adhere to the principle of common but differentiated responsibility; and help developing countries, especially the African countries and small island developing States, to strengthen their capacity for adaptation, mitigation, management and financing.

Fourthly, the international community must build a new concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security to properly tackle climate-related security risks. At present, security threats of all kinds continue to emerge. All countries must take integrated measures, strengthen international cooperation and embark on the path to sustainable development, with a view to addressing climate-related security risks such as land and water resource depletion, food insecurity, humanitarian crises and mass migration flows through the achievement of common development.

China believes that all Member States should, in line with the Charter of the United Nations and their obligations under the relevant documents, and based on the functions and divisions of labour of United Nations organs, promptly address and properly respond to climate-change issues.

Upholding the right approach to justice and interests, China has been participating in international cooperation on climate change. We stand ready to continue to implement our commitment to South-South cooperation on climate change and support other developing countries in responding to climate-change challenges. We are committed to working with the rest of the international community in a concerted effort to safeguard our common homeland, on which our survival depends.

Mr. Djédjé (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I wish to welcome the presence among us today of Mr. Baron Divavesi Waqa, President of Nauru; Mr. Eugene Philip Rhuggenaath, Prime Minister of Curaçao, Kingdom of the Netherlands; and Mr. Yerzhan Ashikbayev, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. I wish also to thank Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General; Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister for Water Resources of the Republic of Iraq; and Ms. Hindou Ibrahim, representative of the non-governmental organization International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change. We found their enlightening briefings and important recommendations very instructive on the issue of climate change and its growing linkage to the intercommunal tensions and conflicts plaguing many parts of the world.

In 2007, upon the initiative of the United Kingdom, the Security Council took up issues relating to the effects of climate change on peace and security for the first time. Since then, the Council's interest in this issue has been strengthened and today reflects a global awareness of the need to develop collective and sustainable responses to this challenge facing our planet. Indeed, the Council's commitment to promoting sustainable solutions to the impacts of climate change on peace and security has become concrete over the years through the adoption of numerous resolutions and presidential statements, including resolution 2349 (2017) and presidential statements S/PRST/2011/15 and S/PRST/2018/3. In these texts, the Council expressed its concern about the effects of climate change, considering them to be factors that aggravate existing situations or situations that might trigger crises, particularly in regions where pre-existing sociopolitical and economic vulnerabilities constitute fertile ground for the outbreak of armed violence.

The situation with regard to Lake Chad, on which some 20 million people depend, is by itself emblematic of the devastating effects of environmental shortages on peace and stability. Having lost a large part of its water volume, the Lake Chad basin region, like the Sahel region, symbolizes all the environmental, security and humanitarian challenges facing the African continent. For the populations living on the shores of Lake Chad, who derive most of their income and means of subsistence from this source, the decline in water and fishery resources can be a factor of tension and even cause an upsurge in jihadist activity, which is the thrust of resolution 2349 (2017), recognizing the effects of climate change on the stability of the Lake Chad region.

For Côte d'Ivoire, this is an essential question whose undeniable impact on peace and security invites us to go beyond the usual divisions concerning

the relevance of the bodies where these questions should be discussed, in order to provide consensual answers capable of reversing the climate change curve and its harmful effects on peace and stability, in a continent already facing too many challenges. My country therefore takes this welcome opportunity to stress the need to take into account the security implications of climate change in the analysis of the root causes of conflicts and in the formulation of strategies for their prevention and management, in accordance with the recommendations of presidential statements S/PRST/2011/15 and S/PRST/2018/3. This is particularly necessary when climate factors may pose challenges to the implementation of the Council's mandates or compromise peacebuilding processes in a post-crisis context.

Côte d'Ivoire, an essentially agricultural country, has not been immune to the large-scale reduction in its forest cover, largely linked both to human activity and to a decline in rainfall, itself induced by the climate change observed in recent decades. From 16 million hectares of forest in the 1950s, the remaining area of forest, according to United Nations estimates, had fallen by 2015 to less than 3.4 million hectares. This worrying phenomenon, also experienced by other countries in sub-Saharan Africa, constitutes — along with desertification, the depletion of arable land and water shortages due to prolonged episodes of drought — factors of instability in regions where access to and control of resources have become sociopolitical issues generating conflicts, which sometimes take dramatic identity and religious turns.

Shortages of water and cultivable land as a result of climate change have exacerbated migration and demographic pressures on scarce existing resources, as evidenced by the environmental, security and humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad basin. Indeed, according to Food and Agriculture Organization estimates, 6.9 million people are food insecure, and 2.5 million people are internally displaced in this area of the Lake Chad basin, where Boko Haram and transnational criminal networks have taken root, taking advantage of local vulnerabilities and contradictions.

The establishment of these terrorist and criminal networks is also facilitated by the radicalization of a fringe of young people confronted with unemployment and poverty. Moreover, the Sahel region, which is also still facing the effects of climate change, is experiencing a resurgence of autonomist movements, driven by the desire to change political institutions and governance mechanisms.

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, concerned about the security challenges related to climate change, organized, during its 774th meeting, held on 21 May 2018, in Addis Ababa, a public meeting devoted to the link between climate change and conflicts in Africa and the response to security implications. My country endorses the relevant recommendations of this meeting, including the need to strengthen the resilience of African States in the face of climate change, as well as the recommendations' integration into national and regional conflict-prevention strategies. The Peace and Security Council also reiterated the importance of multilateralism in the fight against climate change, of which the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, of 12 December 2015 remains a perfect illustration, and urged the signatory States of the Agreement to implement the relevant commitments.

The Peace and Security Council further encourages the international community to support subregional strategies to address the root causes of conflicts, including those proposed by the first Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Climate Commission of the Congo Basin, held on 29 April, in Brazzaville, and the International Conference on Saving Lake Chad, held 26 to 28 February 2018, in Abuja. The Peace and Security Council also stressed the importance of the preventive approach by emphasizing the strengthening of the capacities of national and community early-warning and early-response mechanisms, such as the early warning and response network of the Economic Community of West African States, as well as the integration into their indicators of the premises of community violence, climatic factors and their effects on peace and security.

Côte d'Ivoire would like to draw the attention of the Security Council to the existence in Africa of numerous initiatives based on the commitment of States to taking ownership of their collective security within multilateral frameworks that favour a preventive approach through dialogue and the peaceful settlement of disputes related to the management of natural resources and the climate. These subregional approaches, which enable Member States, united by the ideals of solidarity, sharing and peace, to work together to strengthen peace and security, a guarantee of sustainable development, are only waiting to be supported by the Security Council.

Mr. Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea) (*spoke in Spanish*): Throughout this week, we have been addressing issues of paramount importance related to the maintenance of peace and security. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea once again thanks and congratulates the Swedish presidency and Foreign Minister Margot Wallström for bringing to the table the issue we are discussing this morning, namely, "Maintenance of international peace and security: risks related to climate change".

We also thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, who has been with us during these discussions, for her briefing and reflections; Ms. Hindou Ibrahim of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change, who has presented us with a stark vision of the reality of the effects of climate change and the risks it poses to peace and security at the local, national and regional levels; and the Iraqi Minister of Water Resources, Mr. Hassan Janabi, for his illustrative reports that make us see more clearly the complex issue of establishing the relationship between climate change and the maintenance of peace and security, that is, the risks that climate change poses to the world's peace and security.

On behalf of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, I welcome the presence among us of His Excellency the President of Narau, the Prime Minister of Curaçao, Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.

During a visit that Nigerien President Mahamadou Issoufou made to the Lake Chad region in March 2017, he told those accompanying him that he did not believe that Boko Haram would have taken root without the shrinking of Lake Chad, which has lost 90 per cent of its surface area since the 1960s, with devastating effect on local livelihoods and existence.

Shortly after that visit, the Security Council adopted resolution 2349 (2017), which addressed the multifaceted dimensions of the Boko Haram conflict. Among its many elements, the resolution recognized the adverse effects of climate and ecological changes, among other factors, on the stability of the region, including through water scarcity, drought, desertification, land degradation and food insecurity. It emphasized the need for by Governments and the United Nations to undertake appropriate risk assessments and adopt risk management strategies in relation to those climate-related factors.

It should be recalled that in January, the Security Council adopted presidential statement S/PRST/2018/3, which addressed the activities undertaken by the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel in the areas of conflict prevention, mediation and good offices, and welcomed the efforts of the countries of the region to combat terrorism and transnational crime. The statement used the language of resolution 2349 (2017), which recognized the adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes, among other factors, on the stability of West Africa and the Sahel, thereby reflecting the security implications of those factors for the region.

For Equatorial Guinea, international peace and security are threatened by various elements, each representing a different challenge to the international community. In addition to the threats posed by political, religious and terrorist agendas, the climate change affecting the entirety of our planet undoubtedly presents new risks, raising those already in existence to more dangerous and violent levels. In fact, climate change affects basic and fundamental aspects of human life, as we have already mentioned, such as access to drinking water, the deterioration of land quality to produce food, resulting in food shortages, and the reduction of land suitable for living. All those worrying aspects intensify the struggle among different groups for control of scarce resources, thereby increasing the risks and dangers of conflicts in various parts of the planet.

Coping with climate change no longer depends solely on scientists and academics. It has also become a high priority political issue that needs to be addressed frequently so as to ensure progress in achieving the related objectives. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea believes and suggests that the climate issue should be included in all reports submitted to the Security Council on the maintenance of peace and security, as is the issue of women and children in conflict, in order to better understand and address the adverse implications of climate change on various conflicts.

For Equatorial Guinea, a key question is how the debate on this issue can contribute to the Council fully assuming its commitment to climate change. Another question is how to improve the analysis that the Security Council receives on how and where climate-related issues are a factor of conflict or insecurity. That is why we strongly advocate the improvement of the

analyses and information on the subject provided by the Secretary-General.

In conclusion, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea once again congratulates Sweden on its decision to raise this key issue and expresses its commitment to supporting the international community's action to combat the adverse effects of climate change.

Mr. Lewicki (Poland): At the outset, let me thank the Swedish presidency for organizing this highly important debate. I would also like to thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and Minister Hassan Janabi for their excellent briefings. Last but not least, I am very grateful to Ms. Hindou Ibrahim for her very touching statement and for having reminded us, the Security Council, of our responsibility to tackle the security challenges resulting from climate change, because we are talking about the effects of climate change on the lives of ordinary people. We also welcome the President of Nauru and look forward to hearing his statement on how climate change is affecting his country, as has been mentioned by several speakers. It is a kind of existential threat to a number of small island States.

More than 10 years ago, the Security Council discussed the link between climate change and security for the first time (see S/PV.5663), as mentioned by Ambassador Karen Pierce. Since then, the situation has not improved. Since then, the number of climate change-related conflicts has only increased. That is why we believe that it is more timely than ever that we are having this debate right now. It falls fully within the Security Council's mandate. If the Security Council does not address this topic on climate-related security risks, we will fail the people on the ground and fail to deliver on our mandate.

Having said that, I wish to stress that we simply cannot neglect the negative impacts of climate change on global peace and security. What we are seeing, as Ms. Ibrahim oultined in her statement, is that those impacts are threat multipliers that can aggravate poverty, environmental degradation and social tensions, and can lead to escalations of local and regional conflicts.

Poland would like to underscore the inevitable need of acting in the spirit of multilateralism. The problem of climate change is not a problem only of the affected or risk-exposed countries. It is also a global challenge of the whole international community and needs a global response. The only effective way to respond to that challenge is to act together. Every country should share the responsibility to act.

The effective prevention of conflicts that have resulted from climate change is definitely more cost effective than addressing their consequences. That is why the focus should be put primarily on preventing and mitigating the root causes of conflicts and natural disasters, as well as on enhancing countries' adaptive capacities, strengthening resilience and reducing their vulnerability to climate change.

We believe that the Security Council is key to enhancing the United Nations response to conflicts, in particular in the context of conflict prevention in regions affected by adverse effects of climate change, such as the Lake Chad basin, West Africa, the Sahel and Somalia. The Council should underline the need for better climate-related security risk assessment and management strategies, as has been discussed by a number of previous speakers. In order to fulfil such a task, the Security Council should be equipped with accurate climate-related security risk information, analysis and early-warning mechanisms. We cannot overestimate the critical role of reliable data about climate-change related risks, which is key to avoiding conflicts, building resilience and preventing natural disasters. Therefore, we believe that in order to implement adequate prevention measures, comprehensive information from the field is inevitable. All States and organizations should use the full potential of their field offices and diplomatic missions in order to gather reliable and current information from the regions affected or vulnerable to climate change and conflicts.

Poland would like to see regular discussions and reporting on climate change and security on the agenda of the Security Council. That is why we are grateful that Sweden has addressed that topic. Such debates could complement other deliberations carried out in United Nations forums, mainly in the General Assembly, within their respective mandates and by various international and regional organizations and other stakeholders. That is the point we have been making consistently in recent years and which we will be raising in the future if need be.

This year, Poland will assume the presidency of the twenty-fourth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP). This will be the fourth time we will hold the COP

presidency, and we intend to use our past experience to deliver positive conclusions. While leading the climate negotiations, we will bear in mind that climate security issues constitute the core threat for countries vulnerable to climate change, especially small island developing States and least developed countries.

In conclusion, let me underline that effective responses to climate change and conflict are strictly linked to the implementation of the security and sustainable development agendas. Only by taking coherent and integrated actions in those areas can tangible and durable progress be accomplished.

Mr. Alotaibi (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): We congratulate you, Madam President, on participating in and presiding over this important meeting. We also welcome the participation of the President of Nauru and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. We thank the Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohamed; the civil society representative, Ms. Ibrahim; and the Minister of Water Resources of Iraq, Mr. Hassan Janabi, for their valuable briefings.

As a state neighbouring Iraq, we have similar environmental concerns. We agree with Mr. Janabi that climate change has effects on the ecological system in many parts of his country, particularly in the marshlands, as he outlined in his statement. This requires closer coordination at all levels in order to mitigate the adverse impacts on the environment and the people, and to revitalize and develop this area again.

We agree with everybody in the Council that the phenomenon of climate change is clearly inevitable and that it has become a concern to all nations and peoples of the world, given its grave consequences and challenges in our times. It imperils the security and even the very existence of certain States and is a harbinger of a humanitarian disaster. Contrary to what some people believe, human activities are the main reason for this change, as wars and conflicts are no longer the sole reason for instability and insecurity.

In that regard, we underscore the role of the Security Council, the organ entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security by the Charter of the United Nations, although we believe that the Council is not the ideal organ in which to tackle the phenomenon of climate change owing to the multidimensional consequences that need to be addressed within the context of sustainable development. Nonetheless, the efforts of the Council are an integral part of the efforts undertaken by other United Nations bodies and agencies, within their respective mandates, in order to mitigate the impact of climate change and the potential risks it may pose to security. Those efforts are underpinned by the requirements and provisions of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which are the legal instruments binding us to cooperate in that area.

We cannot discuss international measures to address the phenomenon of climate change without reaffirming the importance of the implementation of common but differentiated responsibilities by States, which was enshrined in the 2015 Paris Agreement. We welcome the Agreement's entry into force at a record pace.

With a view to achieving multidimensional sustainable development, we must establish conditions conducive to combating the serious consequences of climate change, for example, drought, desertification, famine, political upheavals, conflicts over resources, mass displacement, cyclones, floods, heat waves, rising water levels and food insecurity. Despite the efforts undertaken to counter climate change, the path ahead in order to mitigate its effects is still a long one. Concerted international action is a sine qua non to mitigating the impact of climate change and its serious repercussions for our planet. It will take political will and cooperation, as well as international solidarity, to attain those objectives.

Without a doubt, developing countries are making exceptional efforts to address climate change and strengthen their capacities to adapt themselves to its consequences. They are the first countries to be affected by climate change. The same holds true for small island developing States and numerous African States. We hope that developed countries will deliver on their commitments vis-à-vis the leading role that they need to play in adopting the bold and urgent measures needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and maintain the agreed temperature level.

The international concern about climate change is accompanied by a similar concern on the part of the State of Kuwait. We, like other nations, are affected by it and has therefore joined international efforts to combat it. We will spare no effort at the local, regional and international levels to address it. My country sought to promote collective action from the beginning to the

conclusion of the negotiations on the Paris Agreement. We have incorporated the commitments arising from the Agreement into our national priorities, projects and programmes. That is a reflection of our responsibility to future generations, given our environment-friendly role within the framework of mitigating the consequences of climate change and adapting to it.

In conclusion, the State of Kuwait will continue to support the United Nations endeavours to address the challenges caused by the phenomenon of climate change. We believe that addressing this phenomenon is a joint responsibility, albeit to varying degrees, in line with national priorities and capacities, which will lead to realizing the aspirations of all our nations.

The President: I now give the floor to the President of the Republic of Nauru.

President Waqa: It is my honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 12 Pacific small island developing States. We align ourselves with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

At the outset, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Government of Sweden for hosting today's important debate. For nearly a decade, our group has been advocating at the United Nations for a robust response to the security implications of climate change and so we fully appreciate the courage that Sweden has shown in taking on this sensitive issue.

Since acknowledging that the adverse effects of climate change may aggravate certain existing threats to international peace and security, the Security Council has begun to consider the issue according to specific geopolitical contexts. In our view, it is essential that we begin examining the ways that climate change interacts with the drivers of conflict and how the United Nations system can respond appropriately.

The Paris Agreement notwithstanding, climate change is not going away. There will be no return to a normal climate in our lifetime. In fact, the situation will continue to deteriorate for decades, even if we achieve our global goals. Extreme events are projected to occur at a frequency and magnitude well outside human experience and we must take seriously the potential for abrupt climate change to cross dangerous tipping points. There is strong scientific evidence that natural systems are increasingly out of balance. However, we do not have a good understanding of how our human systems will be impacted by such new and unprecedented stressors. Some of the greatest threats posed by climate change may be not the actual biophysical impacts, but rather the deficiencies in our response to them. Greater competition for scarce resources, the destruction of critical infrastructure, the interruption of public services and human displacement will all test the resilience of our institutions and governance structures.

Climate change will be the defining issue of the next century and our preparation is long overdue. That is why the Pacific small island developing States are calling for the appointment of a special representative of the Secretary-General on climate and security. The special representative would fill a critical gap within the United Nations system, as well as provide the Council with the information it needs to fulfil its existing mandate. Monitoring potential tipping points at the nexus of climate and security; facilitating regional and cross-border cooperation on issues affected by climate change; engaging in preventive diplomacy and supporting post-conflict situations when climate change is a risk factor are all critical functions that a Special Representative could begin to address, in coordination with other relevant United Nations bodies.

The Pacific small island developing States first offered that proposal in 2011 and we have made every effort to address the concerns of all countries, the greatest of which has been the fear of encroachment by Security Council on other mandates of other bodies. Let me be clear: the appointment of a Special Representative should not expand the Security Council's mandate. The Special Representative serves the Secretary-General, as the title implies. That being said, the Council needs better climate-related security risk information, analysis and early-warning mechanisms to be able to make informed decisions and carry out its main functions of preventing conflict and sustaining peace. That is consistent with the intent of the 2011 presidential statement (S/PRST/2011/18) and fully supportive of recent Security Council resolutions on the Lake Chad basin, West Africa, the Sahel and Somalia.

Seven years ago, my predecessor sounded the alarm in the Chamber (see S/PV.6587) and the Council demurred. Since then, the security risks of climate change — along with global emissions — have only grown. The Security Council, along with the United Nations system, as a whole, needs a coherent approach to address this pressing issue. The Council has taken a

few tepid steps in the right direction, but it is not enough, which is why the Pacific small island developing States reiterate their call for the appointment of a special representative of the Secretary-General on climate and security. We strongly urge all members of the Council to join us.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Maldives.

Mr. Mohamed (Maldives): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), which represents 37 States Members of the United Nations.

I would like to thank Sweden, the President of the Council for the month of July, for convening today's important debate on climate-related security risks.

AOSIS welcomes in particular the participation in today's debate of His Excellency Mr. Baron Waqa, President of Nauru, and the Prime Minister of Curaçao, Kingdom of the the Netherlands. I would also like to thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed; Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister of Water Resources of Iraq; and Ms. Hindou Ibrahim of the International Indigenous People Forum on Climate Change for their briefings.

Three previous Security Council debates have been held on this very issue — on 30 July 2015, chaired by New Zealand (see S/PV.7499); 22 November 2016, chaired by Senegal (see S/PV.7818); and 20 December 2017, chaired by Japan (see S/PV.8144). In addition, there have also been two Arria Formula meetings on climate change and security. In 2011, the Council issued presidential statement S/PRST/2011/15, on climate change, calling for the inclusion in the Secretary-General's reports of conflict analysis and contextual information on the possible security implications of climate change.

Should the Security Council discuss climate change? That is the wrong question to ask. A more appropriate question is: Should the Council take appropriate measures when man-made actions result in the destruction of islands, cities, nations or entire livelihoods in some countries? AOSIS therefore welcomes today's debate on how the Council can perform its functions more effectively through a better understanding of climate-related risks to international peace and security.

As we are faced with new and emerging risks, including those arising from climate change, it is important to understand these issues to tailor responses accordingly. AOSIS believes that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) should remain the primary United Nations agency for responding to the phenomenon of climate change. The United Nations existing institutional architecture on the issue of climate change — whether concerning mitigation, adaptation, the transfer of technology or advancing basic principles, such as common but differentiated responsibilities related to respective capabilities in responding to climate change — should be promoted within the framework set out by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Yet, where there are clear threats to the security and survival of any country — whether such threats originate in climate risks or from conventional military aggression — the Security Council has to take appropriate action.

The group of countries that I represent here — the 37 small island States — are on the front line of impact from climate change, and the very existence of some of those countries is threatened by climate change and the security risks arising from its impacts. As the Atlantic hurricane season is under way, a number of small island developing States have yet to recover fully from last year's hurricanes, which uprooted entire communities, caused substantial damage to vital infrastructure and rendered entire islands uninhabitable.

But it is not just extreme weather events with which we must contend. Many small island States are experiencing unpredictable rain patterns that have resulted in prolonged droughts, as well as floods. We are also experiencing coastal erosion and saltwater contamination of agricultural lands and freshwater reserves. The documentation related to this issue rightly notes that climate change is reshaping the world's oceans and coastlines. As large-ocean States, our futures are closely related to the health of oceans. From sea level rise to ocean acidification, to ocean warming, the impacts of climate change on our oceans is threatening the existence of our livelihood as we know it. We are calling on States Members of the United Nations to take urgent action to reverse the trend.

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change was a historic milestone in the global effort to address climate change. However, it is well established that we will well exceed the maximum increases of 1.5°C

and 2°C for global average temperature, which we set for ourselves, and enter into truly uncharted territory. But climate change is no longer just about the future. The danger is already here in the present, with the potential to become a destabilizing force nationally and regionally. According to the UNFCCC, our first line of defence must be to ensure that developing countries have the support that they need to adapt. There have been persistent funding gaps for adaptation that trail far behind climate financing provided for mitigation. That must be remedied, with a larger share of public and grant-based financial resources for adaptation.

We also require a strong international mechanism to address loss and damage for when climate change impacts exceed the capacity of nations to adapt. We therefore urge all Member States, especially developed country partners, to fully uphold their commitments and obligations of the Paris Agreement and other international conventions and agreements relating to climate change. We also emphasize the critical role that the international community plays in providing adequate, predictable and additional financial resources, the transfer of technology and capacity-building to developing countries, in particular small island developing States.

It is important that the United Nations system have a full understanding of how climate change threatens international peace and security and how the phenomenon drives conflicts. The Council has already recognized the adverse effects of climate change in several specific contexts — the Lake Chad basin, West Africa, the Sahel and Somalia — and has also stressed the need for improved climate-related security risk assessments for more effectively predicting potential conflicts. The Council has also commenced work on adapting peacekeeping operations to be better informed of the impact of climate change and how that can impact stability in the target countries. However, capabilities, knowledge and understanding of climate-related risks need to improve across the United Nations system. The inclusion of relevant analyses in the Secretary-General's regular reporting, risk assessments and early warnings is vital.

Were the Security Council to ignore climate-induced risks to international peace and security, that would be a mistake of historic proportions. From fires to famine, to flooding, every continent is feeling the fury of climate change, and we cannot wait until we clarify which United Nations agency is most appropriate to respond.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Trinidad and Tobago.

Ms. Beckles (Trinidad and Tobago): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 14 States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

At the outset, I align my statement with the statement delivered by the representative of Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

I wish to recognize the President of Nauru; the Prime Minister of Curaçao, Kingdom of the Netherlands; the Minister for Water Resources of Iraq; the Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan; and the Deputy Secretary-General. The Caribbean Community expresses its sincere gratitude to Sweden, the President of the Security Council for the month of July for convening this important meeting, and CARICOM thanks those who briefed us earlier today.

The Security Council often deals with the issues on a case-by-case basis, and in most cases reactively rather than pre-emptively. Conversely, there is a threat to universal peace and security that cannot go unanswered. That threat far outweighs the current structure of the Council. Under the established notion of peace and security, the current structures within it will not prove sufficient for discussion of the threats posed by climate change. For threats to our peace and security demand far greater measures than combative, military and sanctions-based ones. The appropriateness of the discussions within the Council should not go unanswered. However, the predominance of climate change should remain within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Although the threat to the peace and security of all humankind by climate change is real, there are some States, categorized as small island developing States (SIDS), that face an even greater threat — one that is imminent and requires a pre-emptive response that includes both risk assessment, planning and appropriate financing. Climate change and sea-level rise are unquestionably the most urgent threats to the environment and the sustainable development of SIDS.

Climate change, if not addressed, has the potential to compound the peace and security risks of everyone, but at a faster rate for SIDS. In 2017 the most devastating manifestation of climate change rendered parts of our sister nation Antigua and Barbuda completely

uninhabitable and rolled back decades of development in Dominica. CARICOM recognizes that climate change poses a serious threat to human societies and ecosystems, especially in the areas of extreme weather, sea-level rise, flooding, mangrove degradation, coastal agricultural soils and residential communities, and therefore needs to be addressed with urgency.

At the recent meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean Community, held in Jamaica from 6 to 8 July, our Heads of State adopted a declaration on climate change, in which they called for a global effort to close the mitigation ambition gap and place the world on pathways for low emissions climate resilient development. They also urged the international community to continue to support the Caribbean in its ongoing efforts to contribute to global mitigation efforts and to adapt to the effects of climate change and build the region's resilience so as to mitigate and manage the real risk of irreparable loss and damage. It is important nonetheless not to turn a blind eye to the reality that climate risks could exacerbate security threats. While the Security Council itself does not have the wherewithal to combat climate change, it is within its purview to consider all risks that will impact international peace and security.

In conclusion, CARICOM thanks you, Madam President, for this important debate, which exposes a range of views on how the Council can address climate risk in a security context, if at all. For CARICOM, it also importantly brings out a fundamental point — that we all must act in earnest to combat climate change, lest we find ourselves far beyond any international capacity to cope.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Mohamed (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): On behalf of the Group of Arab States, I wish to congratulate you, Madam President, on your country's presidency of the Security Council this month. I also wish to note the initiative led by your country to deepen the concept and meaning of pluralism and to defend peace in its various aspects around the world. I thank today's briefers, the President of Nauru, the Minister of Water Resources of Iraq, Ms. Hindou Ibrahim and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan.

I have the honour to make this statement today on behalf of the States members of the Arab Group to clarify its position on the topic under consideration in the Security Council with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security in connection with the impact of climate change. While we recognize the primary responsibility of the Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, we also believe that it is important to not overlook the role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in that regard so as to avoid duplication and overlap in the roles of those organs — without prejudice, of course, to their complementary mandates, in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. At the same time, we stress the need to address the threat of climate change to our planet and its existence. Understanding that threat is the first step towards reaching effective and collective solutions.

Of course, armed conflict and international terrorist activities are no longer the only key threats to international peace and security in today's world — a world that is grappling with climate change and environmental degradation that exacerbate the threats to international peace and security due to their negative impact on livelihoods, human security and the ability of Governments to meet the basic needs of their citizens.

Vulnerable communities and States that have limited resources are the most susceptible to the negative impact of climate change, which amplifies their inability to appropriately address emergencies and the unexpected complexities that impact security and stability in those regions and have a direct bearing on civilian populations. Many people have been forced to migrate from their homes as a result of the consequences of climate change, such as flooding, torrential rain, desertification, drought, rising sea levels, dust storms and famine, among other negative effects that also cause migration and displacement.

The Arab region is rich and diverse in climate and environment, but it is not immune to the negative security effects of climate change, which affect all of the countries of the Arab region alike. A number of Arab countries are suffering significantly from the manifestations of climate change that have exacerbated drivers of political and armed conflicts, with obvious effects on international and regional peace and security. Those include heat waves, rising sea levels, drought and desertification, which have diminished arable and pasture lands, and have also contributed to the disappearance of agricultural lands due to water

shortages, leading to land salinity and affecting crop productivity. Those negative developments have had security and social consequences that have given rise to conflicts between different populations, such as herders and farmers, and led to strained relations between groups and communities, and in some cases to armed conflict resulting in displacement and migration.

We draw the attention of the Council to the potential present and future negative consequences of severe climate change on the Arab region, including its socioeconomic effects. In that regard, the Arab Group cites the success of the international community, through complex negotiations, in defining international frameworks that identify the responsibilities and obligations of States, while taking into account the historical responsibility of developed and industrial States for the current negative impact of climate change. A recent case in point is the fact that the international community has concluded the Paris Agreement on Climate Change — a road map in support of international cooperation against climate change via the leading role of developed countries in supporting implementation through financing, technology transfer and building the capacities of developing States in order to support their national efforts and to contribute to international efforts to address climate change, promote national programmes and mitigate negative effects.

In that respect, it is important to point out that the multilateral international framework has managed to set up international mechanisms to provide funding for developing countries, including the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund. One of the most serious challenges facing the Arab region with regard to the effects of climate change on security and peace is the poor cooperation and coordination at the regional and international levels in addressing the problems of climate change and environmental degradation, as well as their impact on Arab security and peace. All parties must mobilize their efforts to reach a positive outcome and to prevent conflicts. The imbalance in the exploitation of natural resources, combined with the inability to manage environmental programmes is a driver of conflicts and is responsible for the deterioration of humanitarian situations causing migration and displacement. Of course, this calls for the enhanced cooperation and support of developed States for regional and national Arab efforts, in particular with respect to technology transfer and capacity-building. Developed States must work in parallel with many initiatives to promote Arab synergies and coordination.

Another case in point is reaching a consensus on a number of recommendations that were concluded at the ninth Arab Forum for Development and Environment, held in Beirut in 2016 under the theme "Sustainable development in a changing Arab climate". There, Arab Governments agreed to shift towards a green economy and to integrate the principles of sustainable development into their conflict resolution and peace initiatives, alongside plans for the reconstruction of Arab countries emerging from conflict in a manner that would help them to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.